

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 25, 2004 (Paper No. 18). Claims 1, 5 to 8, 12 to 15, 19 to 22 and 26 to 40 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 30, 31, 35, 36, 37 and 40 are independent. Claims 37 to 40 have been newly added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 5, 7 to 10, 12, 14 to 17, 19, 21 to 24, 26 and 28 to 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,271,805 (Yonezawa) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,819,048 (Okazaki). Claims 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yonezawa and Okazaki, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,621,429 (Yamaashi). Claims 31, 33, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Okazaki. Claims 32 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Okazaki, and further in view of Yonezawa. Claims 2 to 4, 9 to 11, 16 to 18, and 23 to 25 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of the rejections. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the remaining rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to the reception and display of images from a plurality of communication terminals. One feature of the present invention lies in the notification of a state of frame rate of received images. Image information of the state of frame rate corresponding to each of the images received from communication terminals is displayed in a predetermined area at a time when the received images are displayed. That state of frame rate is notified to a user by changing the image information. Specifically, a

first image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are changed, a second image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are not changed, and neither the first or the second image information are displayed when the received images are not displayed. In one representative embodiment of the invention, the first and second image information are icons, as shown in Figure 15, and the icons are displayed in predetermined areas 66h - 66m as shown in Figure 6. In this way, a user can quickly assess whether the displayed images are changing or not.

With specific reference to the claims, independent Claim 1 recites a communication apparatus comprising a reception unit for receiving images generated from a plurality of communication terminals, an output unit for outputting the images received by the reception unit in order to display the images on a display unit as multiple images, and a notification unit for acquiring and notifying of a state of frame rate of the images received by the reception unit while the reception unit is receiving the images. The notification unit causes the display unit to display an image information of the state of frame rate corresponding to each of the images received from the communication terminal on a predetermined area. The image information is displayed together with the received images when the received images are displayed. The notification unit also notifies of the state of frame rate by changing the image information on the basis of a state of the reception of the reception unit. A first image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are changed, a second image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are not

changed, and neither the first or the second image information are displayed when the received images are not displayed.

Independent Claims 8, 15, 22, 29, 30, 31, 35, and 36 are apparatus, method, and storage medium claims, respectively, that correspond generally to independent Claim 1, in that each independent claim recites the feature of notifying of the state of frame rate by changing an image information on the basis of a state of the reception, wherein a first image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are changed, a second image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are not changed, and neither the first or the second image information are displayed when the received images are not displayed.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 30, 31, 35, and 36, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of notifying of the state of frame rate by changing an image information on the basis of a state of the reception, wherein a first image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are changed, a second image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are not changed, and neither the first or the second image information are displayed when the received images are not displayed.

As conceded by the Office Action, Yonezawa fails to disclose acquiring and notifying of a state of distribution of the received images, wherein the state of distribution comprises information relating to an actual frame rate of the images. The Office Action contends that Okazaki teaches this feature.

Okazaki is seen to teach a user interface module for displaying a list of the present requested frame rate and the real frame rate of a transmission module of the motion image and reception rates of motion pictures and audio sounds of a plurality of reception modules corresponding to the transmission module to display 203 (Okazaki, col. 7, lines 3-11). However, Okazaki is not seen to teach that the display of requested frame rate and real frame rate is achieved by displaying a first image information when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are changed, a second image information when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are not changed, and neither the first or the second image information when the received images are not displayed.

The remaining art applied against the claims, namely Yamaashi, is not seen to supply what is missing from Yonezawa and Okazaki. Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 30, 31, 35, and 36 are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

According to another aspect of the invention, one received image is able to be selected from multiple images displayed on a display unit. The received image selected is displayed in a window different from the window for the multiple images. The state of the new window is changed in accordance with whether the selected received image is changed or not. In this way, a user can quickly assess whether the displayed selected image is changing or not.

With specific reference to the claims, independent Claim 37 recites a communication apparatus comprising a reception unit for receiving images generated from

a plurality of communication terminals, an output unit for outputting the images received by the reception unit in order to display the images on at least one window of a display unit as multiple images, a notification unit for acquiring and notifying of a state of reception of the reception unit while the reception unit is receiving the images, and a selection unit for selecting one received image from the multiple images displayed on the display unit. The notification unit causes the display unit to display the received image selected by the selection unit in a window different from the window for the multiple images, and changes the state of the window in accordance with whether the selected received image is changed or not.

Independent Claim 40 is a method claim that corresponds generally to independent Claim 37.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 37 and 40, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of displaying the selected received image in a window different from the window for the multiple images, and changing the state of the window in accordance with whether the selected received image is changed or not. As such, independent Claims 37 and 40 are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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